

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 future actions.

2 And it's been very difficult to try
3 to get Congress to authorize something like
4 that.

5 MR. GERRY POLLET: Have you
6 asked?

7 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: I have
8 not, no. It's my understand DOE has, but I'm
9 not positive.

10 MR. GERRY POLLET: It would be
11 reasonable, then, for this EIS to consider as
12 an alternative that every generator shipping
13 waste to the site, pay into a fund for the
14 long-term monitoring and capping and
15 remediation of its burial grounds.

16 And your own EIS shows how much more
17 expansion you have to have for the offsite
18 waste?

19 MR. DEE WILLIS: We have
20 another DOE --

21 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: I'll just
22 respond one more time. DOE does not believe
23 that's appropriate for a site-specific
24 document. It would be appropriate for a
25 complex-wide/nation-wide type of document.

62

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 MR. GERRY POLLET: So you're
2 telling the public that when we made that
3 comment in 1997 and you blew us off, now, we
4 should have made it again in 1997; you should
5 have considered it then.

6 Because we sure did make that
7 comment then. And the Hanford Advisory Board
8 did. And you said "Come back later."

9 MR. DEE WILLIS: We have
10 another DOE employee here that works with Mike.
11 He wants to respond to Gerry, so with your
12 permission, I'm going to let him response just
13 once.

14 MR. GEORGE SANDERS: Just once.
15 Thank you, Dee. I'm George Sanders. Just a
16 couple of comments, but the first one is with
17 respect to long-term setting aside funds for
18 closure and that sort of thing.

19 The Congress operates on an annual
20 budget basis. And DOE does try to do long-term
21 life-cycle planning.

22 It's my understanding that the
23 Congress and the Senate authorize and earmark
24 funds for the country on an annual basis. And
25 they get to take another shot at that.

63

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 Right now we are not allowed to set
2 up long-term accounts that are not subject to
3 the Congress's approval.

4 And so that's just a fact of life.
5 And so we do long-term planning, but it's still
6 subject to an annual review.

7 One of the comments Gerry made about
8 Parks Township, the large volume, that was a
9 result of a court action that directed DOE to
10 do that. Thank you.

11 MR. GERRY POLLET: Now, you
12 actually authored the document. It was a
13 court-approved settlement between the parties;
14 you submitted it, you offered it, you wrote it.

15 MR. DEE WILLIS: Gerry, let's
16 move on. Let's move on, okay.

17 MS. MAXINE HINES: Can I ask,
18 what are the criteria?

19 MR. GEORGE SANDERS:
20 Absolutely.

21 MS. MAXINE HINES: Okay. Sorry
22 to delay this, but this is really important.
23 If everybody feels like -- I mean, everybody
24 here and most people around Hanford feel like
25 it's full and we haven't taken care of

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 business, why are we sending more stuff here?

2 And when, at the last public
3 hearing, there was several people brought up
4 criteria, "Is it unsafe where it is? Let's not
5 move it unless it's a worse hazard there than
6 it is coming to Hanford." And no one has
7 addressed that.

8 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Are you
9 talking about the criteria for sending it here?

10 MS. MAXINE HINES: Yes. Why
11 move something that's safe where it is? Why do
12 we need to move something that is safe where it
13 is, to a place through trucks, through valleys,
14 through people, all that stuff, to get it to
15 Hanford where things are already draining into
16 the river?

17 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: It's not
18 necessarily safer there.

19 MS. MAXINE HINES: That's my
20 question: Is that, in that large document, is
21 that addressed?

22 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: It's not
23 in there, no.

24 MS. MAXINE HINES: So is that
25 addressed anywhere?

65

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: It's
2 addressed in the Waste Management Programmatic
3 EIS that was completed in 1997, which led to
4 this decision to send low-level and mixed
5 low-level waste here.

6 It led in part of the decision to
7 send transuranic waste to New Mexico, and in
8 part to send the high-level waste to --

9 MS. MAXINE HINES: Based on
10 economics? Or safety, immediate safety?

11 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Yes.
12 Well, long-term safety, immediate safety,
13 economics.

14 MS. MAXINE HINES: In which
15 order?

16 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: I don't
17 know.

18 MS. MAXINE HINES: That's
19 important.

20 MR. DEE WILLIS: Can you answer
21 that?

22 MR. GEORGE SANDERS: I can see
23 that there's a broader and general sense of why
24 waste comes here; and that is, that there are
25 consent orders, there are consent agreements,

66

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 there are regulatory agreements in a lot of
2 states around the country where DOE is located.
3 And in many cases, those agreements do not
4 allow local disposal and local disposition.

5 And in Mike's case, there's NEPA.
6 And we were just talking about there's NEPA in
7 these consent agreements at each facility and
8 site around the country.

9 And so that's where a lot of these
10 decisions about disposal and treatment and
11 sending waste offsite from those locations that
12 will come to us, and Nevada test site, are
13 made.

14 So it's a national collection of
15 drivers that bring it here.

16 MR. GERRY POLLET: But, George,
17 hold on a second.

18 MR. GEORGE SANDERS: Yeah.

19 MR. GERRY POLLET: All cleanup
20 waste, that's called the environmental
21 restoration, those consent decrees, not any of
22 it, none of it, was addressed in the waste
23 management PEIS, correct?

24 MR. GEORGE SANDERS: No. The
25 only thing that we're dealing with here are

67

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 low-level and mixed low-level wastes. That's
2 the subject of this EIS.

3 MR. GERRY POLLET: So all the
4 cleanup wastes from the consent decrees that
5 you're just citing, none of that was in the
6 waste management 1997 programmatic EIS?

7 MR. GEORGE SANDERS: No. I'm
8 referring to consent agreements and agreements
9 between DOE and the local states where they
10 reside.

11 MR. GERRY POLLET: But this
12 woman's questions isn't answered yet then,
13 because she asked what was the criteria.

14 And you said, "Well, we made a
15 national decision in '97 to ship it here," and
16 you're saying based on these consent decrees.

17 But that '97 document didn't
18 consider any of that waste from the cleanup of
19 other weapon sites.

20 MR. DEE WILLIS: So what's your
21 comment, Gerry?

22 MR. GERRY POLLET: It's
23 excluded. So what is the criteria for making
24 a decision now, if you're shipping waste from a
25 cleanup site over somewhere else to here?

68

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 What is the criteria for not
2 shipping it to a private disposal site in Utah,
3 which it has liners and is regulated, for
4 instance? How do you make that decision? Why
5 does it come here? Is it economics?

6 MR. DEE WILLIS: Any other
7 people on the panel?

8 Mr. Cimon?

9 MR. NORM CIMON: Yeah, just a
10 quick point. Unfortunately, the inability to
11 really get a true cost associated with
12 long-term site-specific waste brings up the
13 same problem I mentioned at hearings before;
14 and that is, there's no way to get any kind of
15 decent economic analysis ever put together
16 about the true cost of this.

17 It just comes out of one big giant
18 pile of money and gets lost. There is no way
19 that any of the economic analysis can possibly
20 make sense.

21 There is no allocation of costs.
22 None whatsoever. No long-term allocation of
23 costs. It gives me real doubt about how much
24 credibility I can assign to any of the economic
25 analyses I see.

TLG-0010

1 If, in fact, none of the true
2 allocations of costs on a site-specific basis
3 can ever really be done.

4 MR. DEE WILLIS: Anybody want
5 to respond to that? So we'll take that as a
6 comment.

7 Ms. Julie Farnam.

TLG-0010

8 MS. JULIE FARNAM: I think that
9 the whole process feels like something that's
10 being shoved down our throats. And I think
11 that's a problem, because we're not here just
12 because we're worried about something little.
13 We're here because we're concerned about
14 generations beyond even our comprehension.

15 And I think that this is an
16 important question. Really, really an
17 important question.

18 And it makes much more sense to me
19 to come at it from asking us what it would take
20 for us to be okay, to feel that we have a place
21 to dump and store this stuff. It has to be
22 dumped and stored.

23 And the people who live here, to be
24 able to respond with what it would take for us
25 to be okay with it. And I think that you're

70

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